



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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MARY ELIAS TO VISIT CONFERENCE

Mary Elias, a teacher from Jaffna College in Sri Lanka, states, "The laity ... must work to apply their faith to all that concerns God in relation to the world ... Through the feeling of tolerance and respect for other faiths it is possible to build a community without caste and creed forming barriers." The Southeast Conference is privileged to have Ms. Elias visit in homes and churches this fall.

During November and December many churches, women's groups and other gatherings will host Ms. Elias. Her tentative schedule is:

November 18-26	Tennessee area
Nov. 28—Dec. 3	Alabama area
December 4-19	Georgia area
December 20-27	E. Alabama area

This visit is part of the 1981 Family Thank Offering, allowing sixteen women from partner churches in Third World countries to come to the US to work among women of the UCC, fostering mutual understanding of the roles of women in church and society. The program is administered by the UC Board for World Ministries and the Coordinating Center for Women.

SUMMER SLUMP

Both OCWM and New Church Development receipts have been slow in coming in this summer. This has created a cash flow problem necessitating borrowing from our resources. Church treasurers are encouraged to forward their checks for these programs as soon as possible so that we might remain current. Thank you for your faithfulness.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETINGS

Make plans to attend your Association Annual Meeting:

Sept. 17	Alabama-Tennessee
Oct. 2	North Alabama

Oct. 9	S. Ala.-N.W. Fla.
Oct. 16	East Alabama
Oct. 17	Central Alabama
Oct. 22	Georgia-South Carolina

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Oct. 3	Neighbors in Need All-Church Offering Sunday
Oct. 10	Laity Sunday
Oct. 10-16	Handicapped Awareness Week
Oct. 16	World Food Day

CADDO VISITS MORGAN-SCOTT

Last spring a truck loaded with clothes and toys from the Caddo Congregational Christian Church made its way from Decatur, AL through the mountains to Barton Chapel Congregational Christian Church in Robbins, TN. The goods were for the Morgan-Scott project. The Women's Fellowship of Caddo collected and repaired clothes and the men worked on toys and transportation for the goods. Thirteen people made the trip. Mary Frey of Barton Chapel led them on a tour of the area.

FLASH!

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE of *Southeast News* which will be mailed to individual subscribers.

We will go to Third Class permit mailing to save postage costs. Your church will receive a quantity of copies to distribute.

Churches can use a variety of methods to distribute the *News*:

The *Southeast News* can be mailed with the church newsletter. If your church would like us to mail copies unfolded (flat) without the postal information printed, let us know.

It can be distributed in the Sunday morning bulletin.

It can be handed out at meetings of various groups.

It can be placed on the literature rack or a table in the narthex. This is the least efficient method.

We want to send the appropriate number of copies to each church for the most effective and widespread distribution. Unopened bundles in a corner of the office won't get the news out to the people!

If you wish to request copies for the best method of distribution in your church, please let the Conference Office know by October 15, 1982.

CONFERENCE CORNER

Every time the season changes I think it is bringing in my favorite time of the year (winter is the only exception). Early fall seems especially beautiful this year. There is a renewed sense of energy and anticipation. Our churches begin their new fall programs and the pace picks up. It is good that God does not allow any one season of life to be permanent. We are always being challenged to grow and change.

As we enter the fall my hope and prayer for all of us is that we will allow God's Spirit to direct us into new paths of service. So much needs to be done, so many people need to be reached with the Good News of the Gospel, so much human talent needs to be released for greater service to the Kingdom. We have a solid foundation of faithful churches and people upon which to build.

Recently, representing you, I had the joy and privilege of participation in two different kinds of experiences. The first was the ground-breaking for a new church (Button Gwinnett), a joyful and expectant kind of church happening. The second was a Centennial Celebration (Atlanta's Central) to recognize one hundred years of life and service. The old and the new—both vibrant and thankful to be a part of God's church serving the Lord Christ in a new day.

I like to think this spirit typifies all of our churches. As the seasons come and go we build on previous blessings to carve out new ways of being the Body of Christ to a needy world. May God bless and lead us as we go into the fall and on into the future as the faithful and expectant people of God.

Emmett O. Floyd

“HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN GROW”

A limited number of reprints of this 8-page section on church growth from the September issue of *A.D.* are available from the Conference office upon request.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

September 6, 1882 was the date of the organization of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta. For two days in September 1982 the centennial of its beginning was celebrated with services on Sunday and Monday.

At the Sunday service Dingani and Dzauya, the children of Jonathan and Alice Nkuchwayo, were baptized. Jonathan and Alice, members at Central, are from Zimbabwe. At the end of the service the church members presented Rev. William Scott, pastor of Central, with a new robe. They had sold centennial buttons to purchase this gift.

Following the service, Conference Minister Emmett Floyd served as Master of Ceremonies for a “Box Lunch Social” and “Hymn Sing.”

Monday night's celebration began with a communion service. The celebrant was Rev. Kibbie Simmons Steele of California who was baptized, confirmed, married and ordained at Central. Dr. Clifton Johnson, director of the

Amistad Center then gave an address on the early history of the American Missionary Association. A time-line of the history of Central and a collection of memorabilia were on display.

At the party which concluded the evening, greetings were given by former minister Bert Richards, now living in Spruce Pine, NC; by Eugene Keen, representing the Ala.-Tenn. Association, and others. Greetings from the President of the United Church of Christ and from former members and friends of the church were read by Moderator Irv Fisk. A birthday cake decorated to look like the church banner (which Central took to the Conference in Cullman) was enjoyed. Time for fellowship and singing of the Doxology completed the celebration.

LAITY SUNDAY OCTOBER 10

Every year the UCC recommends the second Sunday in October as a time to celebrate the ministry of the laity. The Office for Church Life and Leadership offers resource ideas and a suggested worship service in the Spring 1982 issue of Church Leaders Bulletin on this year's theme, "To Be In Mission." For a free copy, write Church Leadership Resource, 1400 N. 7th St., Suite B., St. Louis, MO 63106.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

The United Church of Huntsville, AL, is a truly a United and Uniting church. Its founders represented both the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed sides of the United Church family.

During the late 1950s when Huntsville was growing rapidly the need for a United Church of Christ was seen. The first service was held in 1959 at an armory. Six families who had come from the midwestern and eastern US and one Alabamian, along with 12 hymnals, a chord organ and a pioneering spirit, were the seeds for the church.

Rev. W. Raymond Berry became the first full-time pastor in 1961 and the charter was opened in 1962 with 24 members signing. Since those first gatherings services have been held at a motel, a Scottish Rite Temple and an old farm house, which was located where the present structure was built in 1968. In the initial stages, this facility will serve 250 when completed.

The church has consistently had a strong Christian Education program and an emphasis on community involvement. They have sponsored Scout troops, co-conducted a study hall program for disadvantaged children, hosted the Southeast Conference and the church was one of three UCC churches in the Southeast where Vanderbilt Seminary students observed Church School Classes.

There is an active Youth program, many Women's Fellowship activities and a Men's Fellowship. Relating God's Word to our everyday lives and Bible study is emphasized in Sunday School classes for all ages.

Through the years the United Church of Huntsville has had its share of "birth and growing pains." This was especially true during the 70s when many members were transferred out of the city. However, in 1979 the small group of dedicated members ventured out in faith and called Capt. H. Eugene Keen, Chaplain Corps, USN Retired, as their pastor. Life in the church has not been the same since—today the church has 160 members, averaging over 100 in worship service each Sunday.

Original membership was mostly made up persons from all across the US whose work brought them to Huntsville. Numerous native Alabamians now also are part of the church family.

What about the future? The United Church in Huntsville looks forward to continued growth, greater mission gifts to local and world needs, and a sanctuary in the not too distant future.

Family Life/Changing Lifestyles: YOUR CONFERENCE-USA

The Traveling Suitcase of resources for study, discussion, and worship and action on Family Life and Lifestyle issues is now at the Conference Office. Reaction has been overwhelmingly favorable. The suitcase is meant to TRAVEL. It can be picked up by a task force and studies for a week or two while plans are made for programming. Materials can be duplicated or, if under copyright, purchased, and then the suitcase can travel back to the Conference office. Interested churches, using the suitcase as a guide, can adapt the contents for their own use. In short, the suitcase should spark your own ideas about the kind of use most appropriate for you.

Materials in the suitcase are updated periodically. Write the Conference Office to reserve the suitcase for your church.

MEMORIAL FUND SPONSORS CAMPING PROGRAMS

For many years Arthur Stratemeyer was Treasurer of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ at Nashville, TN. Following his death in 1977 his family established a memorial fund at the church for educational purposes. This summer proceeds from this fund were used to assist with camping programs at the Elon Home for Children, Brooklawn, and Back Bay Mission; a high school student from Nashville was sent to the Vanderbilt Basketball Camp; and the varsity team from Nashville's East High School was sponsored in the Music City Summer League (and East won the championship!).

Recently, in discussing Arthur, Bill Andes said, "He was one of those I always found helpful and full of the abundant life. What a privilege to be in his presence."

Fortunately, Arthur's work continues.

ELON HOME COLLECTING COUPONS

Elon Home for Children is collecting coupons and trading stamps to be used for purchasing a van. You can help by sending:

Red Scissors, Tube Rose, Chesterfield, Raleigh, Bel Air, Double Dividend, Gift Stars, LMC, Dividend and B & W COUPONS.

S & H Green, Top value, Family, Blue Chip, Gold Medal, Gold Bond, Plaid, Green Bax, Frontier and Holden Red TRADING STAMPS.

"Cents-off" or Betty Crocker Coupons CANNOT be used. Checks designated "Van Fund" are especially helpful and appreciated. Send to Elon Home for Children, PO Box 157, Elon College, NC 27244.

AUDIO-VISUAL CATALOG

Films, filmstrips and cassettes which are available to your church from the Conference office are listed in a catalog which was mailed to all Christian Education Chairs and churches last month.

Two new films will soon be available:

We Are A People on Mission, 8 min., 16 mm color film. The mission and ministry of the UCC is made possible by National Basic Support of OCWM. Viewers will discover in an exciting presentation what their gifts do in support of the church's ministries and hear a powerful call to be a people on mission, a people that support mission. A fast-paced motion picture produced by the Stewardship Council, this was first seen as a multi-media presentation at the 13th General Synod in Rochester. This film is a must for every UCC member and congregation!

The Jewel Reclaimed, 26 min., 16 mm color film. Using footage shot in Kampuchea (Cambodia) the film shows the difference humanitarian assistance (focusing on aid through Church World Service) has made in halting death due to starvation and disease.

It tells a story of hope. After near total devastation of war and famine, the people have begun to rebuild their country. They are rebuilding the irrigation system, reopening schools, restoring food production. They are re-establishing themselves as a society and as a nation: reclaiming the stolen jewel of their culture.

NEWS & NOTES

The Reverend and Mrs. Joe Irwin and son Peter proudly announce the birth of Abigail Adams, born Aug. 7. Joe is pastor of Button Gwinnett UCC, Lilburn, GA.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Lucy M. Eldredge, who died in Pleasant Hill, TN, in August. She was an early church leader and edited the *Upland News*.

FORMER PASTOR PREACHES AT BELVIDERE HOMECOMING

Rev. Dr. Richard Schiemann of Evangelical UCC in Highland, IL preached the sermon on August 8, which was observed as Homecoming Sunday at First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN. Worship was attended by 154 persons, which included a dedication of new church entrance doors given in memory of Mildred Syler. Following a noon fellowship dinner there was a program featuring internationally known singer Joe Bias of Nashville.

Dr. Schiemann served as pastor of First UCC from 1961 to 1966.

Youth Magazine

The Fall 1982 issue of Youth Magazine will focus on "The Family: Myth and Reality." Stories by teenagers, talking about their own family experiences, will be featured.

Youth Magazine is an excellent quarterly resource for teens and leaders of youth groups. To build this resource into your programming, order from Youth Magazine, 132 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001. Cost is \$2.50 singles, reductions on multiple copy orders.

QUOTE

"We don't inherit the world from our parents so much as we borrow it from our children. In what shape, then, shall we return it: with more hunger and arms than even before, or with less of both? And there's another question: it is not whether or not the churches could make a difference; it's whether or not they will. I hope the churches will lead. The world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, too small for anything but love."

--William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

pastor of Riverside Church in New York City, as quoted in the *Pilgrim State News*, publication of the UCC Massachusetts Conference.

UCBWM PROVIDES \$20,000 TO LEBANON

In response to a request by Church World Service, UC Board for World Ministries has send \$20,000 in relief aid to Lebanon, according to Alfred C. Bartholomew, General Secretary of UCBWM's World Service Division. Individual

contributions from UCC churches toward Lebanon relief have been coming into the UCBWM offices.

Contributions to Lebanon relief should be sent to UCBWM to be forwarded to the Middle East Council of Churches through CWS.

The Printer Goofed!

The last page of churches listed by Association for the *Youth Network Directory* was inadvertently not included in the recent mailing to pastors.

Please attach this page to your Directory and accept our apologies for this oversight.

EAST ALABAMA (CONT'D)

Roanoke, Rock Stand Congregational Christian, Rt. 1, Roanoke, AL 36274
(205) 644-3948

Senior	None listed
Junior	None listed

Shawmut, Todd Congregational Christian, 1801 30th Street, Shawmut, AL 36876

Senior
Junior

Wadley, Beulah Congregational Christian, Wadley, AL 36276 (205) 357-4705

Senior
Junior

Wadley, Christian, Wadley, AL 36276 (205) 395-2346

Senior	None listed
Junior	None listed

Wadley, Corinth Christian Church, Wadley, AL 36276

Senior	None listed
Junior	None listed

Wedowee, Cavers Grove Congregational Christian, Rt. 1, Newell, AL

Senior
Junior

Wedowee, Noon Day Congregational Christian, Rt. 2, Wedowee, AL 36278

Senior	Rev. Horace Gregory, Shawmut, AL 36876
Junior	Mrs. Cathy Gregory, Shawmut, AL 36876

West Point, Bethel Congregational Christian, West Point, GA 31837

Senior

Junior

Woodbury, Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian, Woodbury, GA

30293 (404) 553-5091

Senior None listed

Junior None listed

A Meditation

God loves you.

God created all out of love.

You know God best through

Jesus Christ ...

His birth is God's promise.

His life is God's example to you.

His rising from death is hope.

Set free that of God in you.

Help free that of God in others.

Activate the power of God in your life.

Open your eyes.

Listen with your soul.

Question with conscience.

Act responsibly, firmly,
compassionately.

Let the healing spirit flow.

Let the reconciling love grow.

With all your bring

love God

love others

love self.

These excerpts from a meditation by Herman C. Ahrens, Jr., *Youth Magazine*, Dec., 1980, are found on a poster included in the 1982-83 Church Life Resources Packet, "To Be In Mission." It costs \$6.50 and has resources for the program year beginning in September. Order from Church Leadership Resources, 1400 N. Seventh St., Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63106.

News Item

A caravan of 39 people from the Southeast Conference spent the week of June 19-23 building a house!

Sixteen churches and four individuals helped purchase the building materials for construction of a house at Appalachian Habitat in Tennessee.

East Alabama-West Georgia was represented by 35 people, two were from Ala.-Tenn. and one person was from S. Ala.-N.W. Fla.

The camp site at Robbins, TN was set up on the 19th and the adventure began with worship at Uplands.

Boys who had never had their hands on a concrete block began laying blocks on Monday. The volunteer masonry contractor from Colorado remarked on how true to the line these boys laid the block—he laid the corners and “our” boys the straight-aways. Thirteen courses of block were laid for the basement and foundation.

The block laying was completed Tuesday afternoon; Wednesday morning began work on the center beam for the floor. Plates were put on the walls and the floor laid.

The girls of the group worked hard both inside and outside the parsonage/church building at Robbins.

The group spent the 24th and 25th at the World’s Fair in Knoxville.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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This transcription was recorded on July 1 and 2, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

